



**UN COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME ON REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM
DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
NATIONAL PROGRAMME DOCUMENT**

Cover Page

Country: Solomon Islands
Programme Title: UN-REDD Solomon Islands Programme: Support to Initial Readiness
Programme Outcome(s): CPAP Strategic Outcome 2: Good governance and human rights
CPAP Strategic Outcome 4: Sustainable environmental management

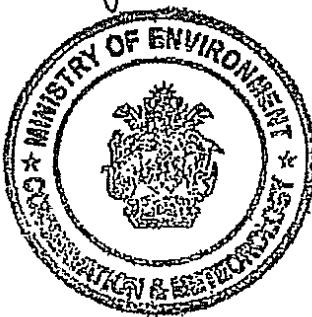
Programme Duration: 18 months
Anticipated start/end dates: 1 July. 2011
Fund Management Option(s): Pooled (UNDP)
Managing or Administrative Agent: UNDP MDTF
Office

Total estimated budget*: \$550,000
Out of which:
1. Funded Budget: \$550,000
2. Unfunded budget: n/a

Sources of funded budget:

- Government \$80,000 (in-kind)
- UN-REDD MDTF \$550,000
- Other FAO \$135,000 (in-kind)
- Other UNDP \$110,000 (in-kind)

Names and signatures of (sub) national counterparts and participating UN organizations

UN organizations	National Coordinating Authorities
Knut Ostby UN Resident Coordinator Signature <i>5/5/11</i> Date	Rence Sore Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology Signature Date <i>03. May 2011</i>
Jose-Antonio Prado FAO Forestry Department Deputy Director Signature Date	
Akiko Suzuki, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Signature Date	
Tim Kasten UNEP Deputy Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation and Chief, Freshwater and Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch Signature Date <i>12 May 2011</i>	

1. Executive Summary

The logging industry is the single most significant economic sector in the Solomon Islands; it contributes 67% of export earnings, and some 12-13% of total government revenue. As much as 50% of the employed workforce may be associated directly or indirectly with the forest sector. Officially, annual export earnings in 2007 were approximately USD 110 million, though this is likely to be a significant under-estimate, as it is known that not all of exports are accurately assessed.

Key governance issues preventing sustainable management of forest resources in the Solomon Islands include:

- Outdated and incomplete legislation. The main legislation governing the sector dates from 1969 and is inadequate to govern a vastly expanded industry. Provisions for duty remissions exist, from which logging companies have been major beneficiaries, while rarely complying with requirements to use these savings for reforestation or other works at community level
- Uneven application of the rule of law. Companies are rarely fined or suspended or face license cancellations despite generally poor (and sometimes illegal) logging practices. Timber license hearings, required under the Timber Resources Acquisition Process are sometimes held with minimal advance notification, effectively limiting participation.
- Incomplete enforcement. Smuggling and misclassification of products result in revenue loss; and therefore over-exploitation compared with actual revenue flows
- Inaccessibility and cost of legal proceedings, which act as a deterrent to seeking advice and compensation.
- Weak coordination and cooperation within and among customary ownership groups. Negotiations with logging companies are often conducted with and by the elite few within a community and little communication about the process with other tribal members; benefits (financial) accrue to only a few individuals and/or lower than expected royalties; .
- Weak formal governance structures. A combination of the preceding factors results in “elite capture” of a disproportionate share of total revenues.

This initial programme will directly contribute to **UNDAF Outcome 2:** *“National and regional governance systems exercise the principles of inclusive good governance, respecting and upholding human rights; and resilient Pacific island communities participate in decision-making at all levels.”* and to **UNDAF Outcome 4:** *“The mainstreaming of environmental sustainability and sustainable energy into regional and national policies, planning frameworks and programmes; and Pacific communities sustainably using their environment, natural resources and cultural heritage.”*

This programme responds to lessons learned from previous UN support to the Solomon Islands, as well as to lessons learned from other UN-REDD country programmes. The current UNDP CPAP is built on lessons learned from previous cycles of UN support to the Solomon Islands. Such lessons include the need to:

- *Build stronger partnerships at the highest levels, including enhanced donor partnerships for improved resource mobilization; and*
- *Ensure national commitment to, and ownership of programmes by enhancing involvement of key stakeholders ... (UNDP CPAP 2008-2012, page 4)*

The **Objective** of this initial UN-REDD programme is “*to establish the necessary institutional and individual capacities required to develop full REDD+ readiness in the Solomon Islands*”. This Objective will be secured through three **Outcomes** and associated **Outputs**. These are:

Outcome 1: REDD+ readiness supported by effective, inclusive and participatory management processes. The initial programme will deliver this Outcome through the following three Outputs:

Output 1.1: A broad-based, multi-stakeholder national REDD+ working group

Output 1.2: Collated and analyzed forest resource data

Output 1.3: A REDD+ readiness roadmap

Outcome 2: REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+. The initial programme will deliver this Outcome through the following three Outputs:

Output 2.1: A constituency-based education and awareness raising programme.

Output 2.2: A process to ensure the right of free, prior and informed consent for actions to be undertaken on REDD+

Output 2.3: A rapid/initial cost-abatement assessment.

Outcome 3: Preliminary capacity developed for REL formulation and MRV. This will be achieved through two Outputs:

Output 3.1: REL and MRV capacity assessment

Output 3.2: Assessment of potential for regional cooperation on MRV

2. Situation Analysis

Socio-economic, Political, and Development Context

The Solomon Islands consists of more than 1000 islands, divided into 9 provinces, largely on the basis of the larger islands, such as Guadalcanal, Malaita, Santa Isabel, San Christobal, and Choiseul. About 87% of the total land area is owned by local communities, on the basis of customary tenurial arrangements. The remaining 13% of state lands consists largely of land purchased from local communities during the colonial period.

The Solomon Islands is ranked in the bottom quarter of medium human developed countries (as measured by the Human Development Index). There are a number of socio-economic issues confronting Solomon Islands that have caused this low ranking. Job opportunities are in short supply, with little formal employment outside Honiara. The situation is aggravated by rising unemployment, especially among the youth. Further, exasperating poverty is the high population growth in Solomon Islands, currently at 2.54 per cent (2007) - among the highest in the world. There are also growing regional disparities with provincial development lagging behind the main centres. For example, transport and communications in rural areas remains limited.

The Solomon Islands also has one of the lowest rates of adult literacy in the region, variously estimated at between 25 and 40 per cent. This is largely due to the low school enrolment levels in Solomon Islands. At least 20-25 per cent of the school-age children never attend primary school and an estimated 30 per cent drop out before completing primary. Further, only half of children attending primary school can be placed in secondary school.

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Pacific Island States (2008-2012) notes that the development challenges in the Pacific are significant. Millennium Development Goal indicators in rural areas or on the outer islands of many countries are well below national average. Societies in the Pacific have been experiencing dramatic social, economic and environmental transformations over the past decades. Governance systems have, in general, struggled to meet the human development needs of their populations and, in the Solomon Islands and elsewhere, co-exist uneasily alongside traditional forms of governance. A myriad of factors have led to political instability and civil conflict in recent years. Human rights are not widely understood, gender inequality is pervasive, and the population faces limited social, economic and political opportunities.

In the case of the Solomon Islands, the UNDAF response to these challenges includes the Goals of:

- Improved transparency, accountability, equity and efficiency in the management and use of resources;
- Inclusive governance (reconciling traditional and modern forms), human rights, the rule of law, accountability and transparency
- Improved environmental management and use of resources for sustainable development

Land Use, Forest Policy and Governance (component 2a of R-PP)

The logging industry is the single most significant economic sector in the Solomon Islands; it contributes 67% of export earnings, and some 12-13% of total government revenue. As much as 50% of the employed workforce may be associated directly or indirectly with the forest sector. Officially, annual export earnings in 2007 were approximately USD 110 million, though this is likely to be a significant under-estimate, as it is known that not all of exports are accurately assessed.

The total forest area in the Solomon Islands is approximately 2.2 million hectares. Logging regulations restrict logging to slopes less than 40% and elevations below 400m (although these limits are frequently abused). With limited accessibility due to topography, only 604,000 hectares are considered to be commercially exploitable. Sustainable yield from this area is estimated at 255,000m³/yr. This compares with estimates of harvested volumes of 740,000m³ in 2003 and more than 1,000,000m³ in 2004. Virtually all commercially exploitable areas have already been logged throughout most of the country. Although there are no formal protected areas (Protected Area legislation is currently before Parliament), some NGO-led conservation efforts have been successful in avoiding logging in some areas. Re-entry logging is now underway in many parts of the country. However, although initial re-entry logging may be commercially viable due to pre-built roads and other infrastructure (which should have been destroyed after logging according to regulations) reducing the costs of logging, second or third re-entry is unlikely to be commercially viable due to the lack of timber trees. Therefore, even with re-entry logging, it is projected that large-scale logging in commercially exploitable areas is projected to finish around 2015 (depending on global economic conditions). Inevitably, there will be pressure to modify logging regulations to allow access to currently “non-commercial” areas, and the introduction of new technologies, such as heli-logging, will allow increased access to currently inaccessible areas.

Key governance issues preventing sustainable management of forest resources in the Solomon Islands include:

- Outdated and incomplete legislation. The main legislation governing the sector dates from 1969 and is inadequate to govern a vastly expanded industry. Provisions for duty remissions exist, from which logging companies have been major beneficiaries, while rarely complying with requirements to use these savings for reforestation or other works at community level
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- Weak coordination and cooperation within and among customary ownership groups. Negotiations with logging companies are often conducted with and by the elite few within a community and little communication about the process with other tribal members; benefits (financial) accrue to only a few individuals and/or lower than expected royalties; .
- Weak formal governance structures. A combination of the preceding factors results in “elite capture” of a disproportionate share of total revenues.

While deforestation rates in the Solomon Islands are the highest in the South Pacific in terms of percentage forest cover (2.2%/year), in absolute terms the area of deforestation is modest (44,000ha in

the period 1990-2000). Drivers of deforestation are largely conversion of natural forest to industrial plantations, especially oil palm; mining development and operations, and infrastructure development. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has plans to expand the current area of oil palm, approximately 6,000ha, mostly in Guadalcanal Province, to 40,000ha by 2014. Of equal or greater importance are emissions from forest degradation. Against an estimated sustainable extraction rate of around 300,000m³/yr, recent extraction rates have exceeded 1,000,000m³/yr. There remain very few areas of non-degraded forest in the Solomon Islands, though accurate estimates are not available.

The Forestry Development Strategy (2009-2013), supported by a “Corporate Plan” for implementation, identifies 11 key issues to move towards sustainable management:

- Monitor and ensure compliance of logging practices with the Code of Logging Practices
- Monitor the extent and quality of natural resources
- Review all licenses to ensure validity
- Proper monitoring of shipments of logs, and adjust Determined Value accordingly
- Update database of log export and licensing
- Review the forestry quota
- Implement the national reforestation programme
- Implement timber milling and downstream processing to assist local stakeholders
- Promote and assist small-scale plantation areas and ensure reforestation of logged areas
- Establish and manage demonstration plots
- Review and enact forestry legislation, including subsidiary regulations

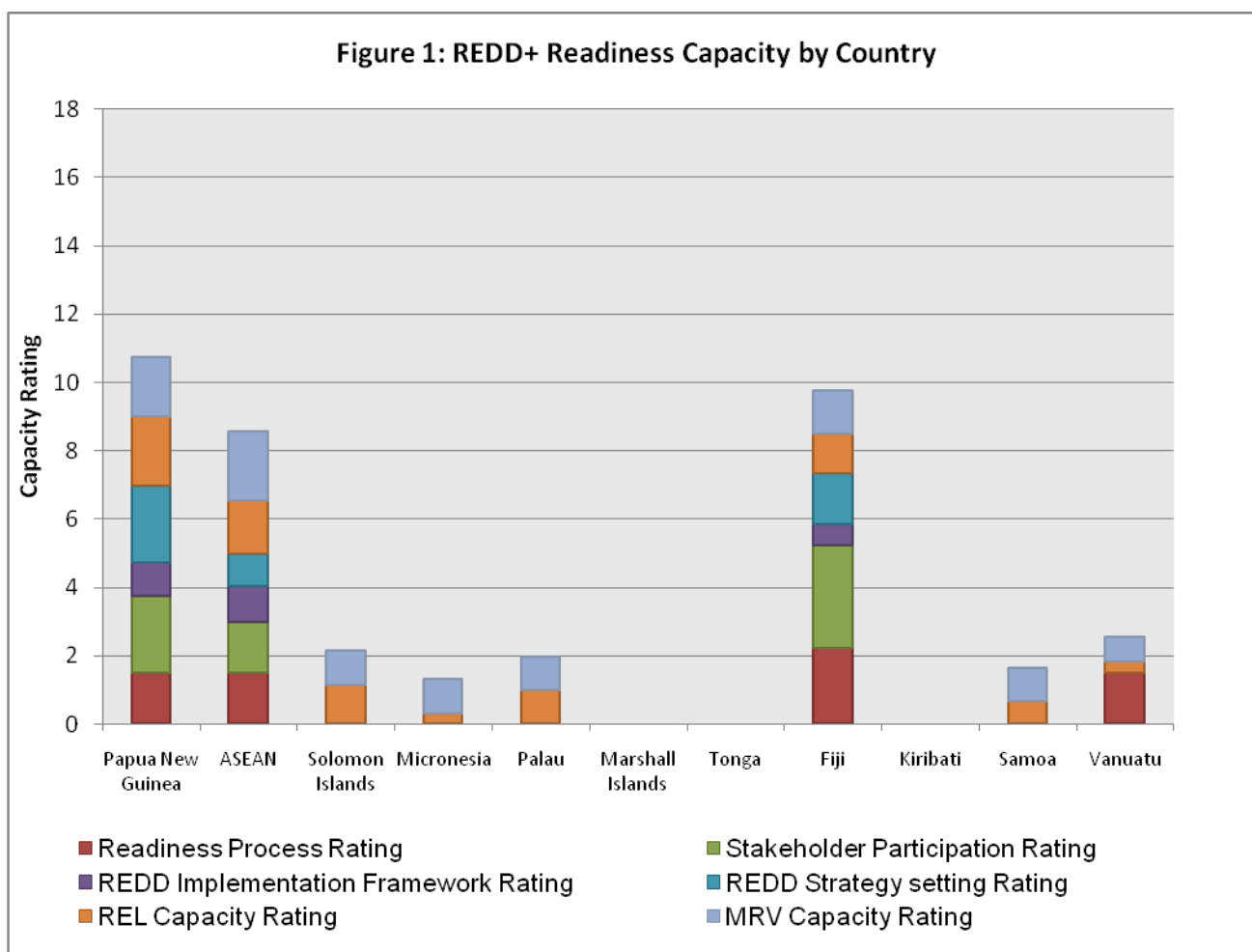
The Forest industry on the Solomon Islands is represented by the Solomons Forestry Association (SFA)¹, a registered trust, established in 2007 (effectively re-constituting the earlier Solomon Islands Forestry Association, which had become defunct in 1999). Currently it has 39 members involved in timber harvesting and processing. Timber harvesting companies on the Solomons are characterized by a strong focus on “liquidation logging”, in other words in maximizing financial returns over as short a timeframe as possible. There are no companies that have a clear commitment to sustainable practices.

Management of Readiness (component 1a of R-PP)

Major responsibility for REDD+ readiness lies with two government agencies, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, reflecting its mandate both for Climate Change Policy and for conservation of natural resources and sound environmental management; and the Ministry of Forestry, the line agency responsible for forest resources (For further information on mandates, see below).

To date, little concrete progress has been made in management of readiness, as can be seen from the UN-REDD Programme’s analysis of regional REDD+ readiness, shown in Figure 1, below:

¹ For list of acronyms, see Annex 2



As can be seen in Figure 1, the Solomon Islands lags behind the ASEAN average and some countries in the Pacific, such as PNG and Fiji, in overall REDD+ readiness, though it is comparable with many other Pacific Island States.

Initial analysis of the needs for REDD+ readiness management has been undertaken, and the government is considering establishment of a multi-stakeholder forum to oversee the process. Progress would have been more rapid, but for parliamentary elections in 2010, which hampered administrative progress on REDD+.

Stakeholders (component 1b of R-PP)

The key stakeholders and beneficiaries of the programme are the forest land owners. As noted above, 87% of the total land area is owned by local communities, on the basis of customary tenurial arrangements. The prevailing traditional system of landownership provides a welfare safety net for the vast majority of Solomon Islanders. Customary land tenure also supports the country's robust village-based subsistence gardening. At the same time, customary ownership is regarded as a major constraint to large-scale development. Often it is problematic, costly and fraught with uncertainty due to the inevitable and often multiple disputes that arise between owners and developers, or between different landowner groups. Equally problematic is when the land is set aside for other public purposes, such as

management of watersheds, protection of sites of special interest, or conserving environmentally-sensitive areas. While the national government has the power of compulsory land acquisition, using this power is regarded as undermining values of customary right of the people and gains political unpopularity. Thus this authority has only been used occasionally, to acquire property for such purposes as roads, schools, and health centres.

Governmental stakeholders include:

- **Ministry of Agriculture.** The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for agricultural development. Currently there are plans convert 34,000ha of forest to oil palm over next 4 years, which is obviously a crucial element, affecting emission abatement potential in the Solomon Islands. It will be important to ensure that such plans are consistent with the National REDD+ Strategy, as it emerges.
- **Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology.** Against the backdrop of the problems associated with environmental sustainability and its continued commitment towards MDG 7, the Solomon Islands Government established the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology (MECM) in December 2007. In effect, it is the merger and upgrading of Solomon Islands Meteorological Service and Environment and Conservation Division of the Ministry of Forestry. Seeing the importance of the issue of climate change and how it affects the lives of people, the national government endorsed the creation of the Climate Change Division to be part of MECM. The MECM is primarily responsible for protecting the environment through the development of environmental policies and the enforcement of existing environmental legislation. The MECM has developed National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in 2008 and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP), National Waste Management Strategy and Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Action Plan in mid-2009. Although the MECM is the national body with the overall mandate for environmental protection, the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, Mines and Energy, Forestry, Lands, and Fisheries have specific responsibilities regarding land management, forest management, energy planning and use of natural resources. Therefore, the environmental decision-making process in Solomon Islands is increasingly becoming a multi-sectoral process and it requires integrated actions towards sustainable development and achievement of MDGs.

The Vision in the MECM's new Strategic and Corporate Plan 2010 – 2012 is 'A clean, healthy and unique environment for the secure and quality livelihoods of Solomon Islanders'. The mission statement [or institutional objectives] of the MECM is to 'Promote and safeguard the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of the peoples of Solomon Islands'. Currently, the MECM employs 81 people, of whom 63 are technical/professional and 18 are support staff. The major current initiatives of the MECM are in line with the new Strategic and Corporate Plan 2010-2012 and this includes: 1. Conservation of Solomon Islands ecosystems; 2. Climate Change; and 3. Meteorological Services.

As of 23rd September 2010, MECM is now called the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), a new arrangement mandated by the new national government. Areas of responsibility will be similar under the old Ministry with an expanded role in the area of disaster management being the only added responsibility in the new ministerial arrangement.

- **Ministry of Forestry.** The Ministry of Forestry of the Solomon Islands Government is responsible for the overall management of the forest resources of the Solomon Islands. Further, the government produced an item of legislation – the Forest Act 1999 – which provides for the conservation of forests and the improved management of forest resources, control of timber harvesting, encouragement and facilitation of sustainable forestry activities, establishment of plantations, and domestic processing of timber. The Forest Act 1999 was passed in Parliament, but was not gazetted, thus it cannot be enforced. A review of the Act was carried out and the Forests Bill 2004 was produced, but is yet to be presented in Parliament. Once the Forests Bill 2004 is enacted, it will repeal and replace both the Forest Resources and Timber Utilisation Act and the Forest Act 1999. The Forest Act 1999 provides for penalties when individuals or corporate entities are in breach of provisions of the Act.

The major bilateral and multilateral development partners active in the Solomon Islands are:

- **Australia/AusAID.** Australian aid to Solomon Islands is delivered through a bilateral program and the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI). RAMSI is a partnership between the people and Government of Solomon Islands and fifteen **contributing countries** of the Pacific region, helping the Solomon Islands to lay the foundations for long-term stability, security and prosperity. RAMSI's mandate includes: *“improve economic governance and strengthen the government's financial systems”*; and *“help rebuild the economy and encourage sustainable broad-based growth”*

Bilateral support is provided through the Solomon Islands–Australia Partnership for Development, which includes joint commitments for four Priority Outcomes, one of which is *“improve economic livelihoods by working to create long-term economic opportunities and livelihood security for Solomon Islanders, particularly those living in rural areas through more productive and sustainable utilisation of agricultural land, forests and marine resources, and the improved operation of markets.”*

AusAID has previously funded two phases of a Forest Management Programme (2000-2004; and 2005-2009), now terminated. This programme focused on (i) Forest resource assessment, using satellite imagery; (ii) Preparation of operational maps; and (iii) Preparation of logging plans and data management of logging practices. A major new initiative is the Rural Livelihoods Programme, which is being initiated with a comprehensive communications and education initiative. Previously, as part of the Solomon Islands Forestry Management Project II, the Queensland University of Technology identified effective strategies for communication in the Solomon Islands, particularly with rural populations.

- **European Union.** The main focus of EU development cooperation since the 1990s has been on sustainable rural development and human resource development. A sector-wide approach is being adopted to sustainable rural development, supplementing ongoing and future activities in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and transport. A community-driven approach is also being taken, with emphasis on strengthening local and national institutions. The EU has supported sustainable forestry projects in all nine provinces. Examples include are forest conservation, reforestation and FSC certification in Kolombangara, and provision of funding for a WWF small-grants projects, and support to the SICCP (see below). The EU is also supporting the development of a climate policy for the Solomon Islands. There will shortly be a call for proposals for a small-grants programme related to FLEGT and REDD+, with a deadline for submission of May 14th.

- **FAO** has a joint programme with the European Union, focused on capacity building for sustainable rural development. A recently-approved ACP/FLEGT project entitled *“Improving Forest Governance in the Solomon Islands through the Development of a Multi-stakeholder Action Plan Process”*, with the Objective of *“establishing an enabling environment for improvement of forest governance in the Solomon Islands through the development of a multi-stakeholder action plan process”*. The ACP/FLEGT project will co-finance some of the activities included in this proposal.
- **GIZ** in partnership with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) is implementing the *“Regional BMU-ICI REDD+”* and *“Pacific-German Regional Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change”* programs. These two initiatives aim to support countries in the region including the Solomon Islands in sustainable management of their natural resources and conservation of their forest ecosystems, while linking these activities to climate change mitigation and adaptation outcomes. To that, GIZ and SPC bring together knowledge and lessons gained through their work in Fiji and other countries in the region to scale up their support in REDD+ readiness and adaptation at the regional level through these programs.
- **Japan/JICA**, which to date in the Solomon Islands has largely funded infrastructure projects and a grassroots human security project, is open to submissions on environmental/forestry issues. JICA undertakes an annual needs assessment, through which submissions are received from governmental or non-governmental agencies. For grass-roots human security projects, submissions may be made at any time. A *“Preparatory Study on the Programme for Climate Change in the Pacific Islands”*, prepared on behalf of JICA in 2009, noted that as Japan has not previously been involved in the forest sector in the Solomon Islands, provision of such support should take a *“step-by-step”* approach. One recommendation for initial support is for development of a forestry information system and preparation of a sustainable forest management plan.
- **UNDP** through its country office in Honiara has ongoing projects that would complement REDD+ efforts. For example, the *“Strengthening Environmental Management and Reducing the Impact of Climate Change in Solomon Islands”* project, with USD2.13 million of TRAC funds. This project, scheduled to last 3 years, to the end of 2012, has the objective of assisting the government in capacity development for environmental management. It will pursue five results: a national environment policy and plan; information management and scientific/technical knowledge base; community-based management and disaster risk reduction; institutionalized human resource development and awareness raising; and gender mainstreaming. Activities will include REDD+ relevant actions such as legislative development and review, improved law enforcement, and awareness raising.

UNDP, with support from SPREP, and funding from the GEF, also produced the ‘National Environmental & Capacity Development Action Plan [NECDAP], published in 2008. Goal 1 of the NECDAP is *“Good Governance & Environmental stewardship at national & provincial level”*. Goal 2 is *“Strengthen research, development & monitoring capacity to address priority environmental issues & international obligations”*; while Goal 5 is *“International, regional & national environmental agenda effectively managed & implemented”*; all of these being relevant for REDD+ readiness.

In addition, the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre implements a Tier Two UN-REDD Programme initiative, funded by the UNDP-Japan Partnership Fund, to support a group of countries in the

Pacific region including the Solomon Islands in REDD+ readiness. The initiative in particular will work on partnership development and promotion of a regional REDD+ approach in the Pacific.

Regional agencies activities on issues related to REDD+ include:

- **CROP** (the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific), chaired the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), include SPC and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) among seven other main agencies. These agencies have certain programmes that encompass key components of good governance and environmental benchmarks that are relevant to REDD+ implementation. For example, the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) under PIFS is currently working in three main areas (pillars), namely law and justice, economic governance and machinery of governance. RAMSI is helping the Solomon Islands lay the foundations for long-term stability, security and prosperity – through improved law, justice and security; more effective, accountable and democratic government and stronger, broad-based economic growth. The CROP offers important regional frameworks for cooperation, capacity development and knowledge management in the areas of environmental governance and law enforcement, and therefore, the work of the CROP would be highly relevant for REDD+ readiness in the Solomon Islands.

Non-governmental agencies active on issues related to REDD+ include:

- **Live & Learn**, which is an Australian NGO, working on environmental education issues as a means to reduce poverty. Their work is largely focused in 4 provinces: Isabel, Rennel and Bellona, Makira-Ulawa, and some islands in Western Province, where they work through community facilitators. Also, their work specifically on REDD+ demonstration in Padezaka Tribal Land in Choiseul Province, funded by ABD, will be starting and highly relevant to the national readiness work.
- **The Development Services Exchange** (DSE), which is a national umbrella NGO, representing the interests and coordinating the activities of all NGOs working on development issues.
- **The Nature Conservancy** (TNC), which has focused much of its work on Choiseul Province, where they have adopted a biological conservation planning approach to promote sustainable management of the entire province. Uniquely in the Solomons, a single customary land owners' association, the Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Communities (LLCTC) represents all customary land holders in the province. Established in 1981, and led by the Honorable Reverend Leslie Boseto, the LLCTC has proven a very effective body in promoting conservation and resisting logging, although some timber licenses have been issued in the province.
- **The Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership** (SICCP), which is working at 6 high-value conservation sites in the Solomons, mostly in Western Province. The most prominent of these is Tetepare, a 12,000 hectare island that was formerly inhabited, but abandoned in the 19th century due to head-hunting and disease. The Tetepare Descendants Association (TDA), consisting of customary owners of land on Tetepare, now mostly resident on neighboring Rendova, have a constitution upholding conservation and improvement of livelihoods. With support from the SICCP, they have a number of livelihood improvement initiatives, including an eco-lodge. Proposals for a voluntary market carbon conservation project are currently under development.

- **The Solomon Islands Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Advocacy Association (SIIPHRAA)**, which promotes human rights awareness through networking in all 50 parliamentary constituencies.

3. Strategies, including Lessons Learned and the Proposed Joint Programme

Background/context: The programme will directly contribute to **UNDAF Outcome 2:** *“National and regional governance systems exercise the principles of inclusive good governance, respecting and upholding human rights; and resilient Pacific island communities participate in decision-making at all levels.”* Effective implementation of REDD+ is ultimately a governance issue, since it involves stakeholders voluntarily amending the way they manage forest resources, based on a full understanding of the benefits and risks of such changes, and rewarding those stakeholders in a fair and equitable way for such changes that result in reduced emissions. The focus of the programme on inclusive and participatory REDD+ management processes, building stakeholders’ understanding of REDD+, and ensuring the application of the principle of free, prior and informed consent, will all serve to improved respect and upholding of human rights.

The programme will also contribute to **UNDAF Outcome 4:** *“The mainstreaming of environmental sustainability and sustainable energy into regional and national policies, planning frameworks and programmes; and Pacific communities sustainably using their environment, natural resources and cultural heritage.”* REDD+ cannot be viewed (in any country) as separate from existing processes of national socio-economic development and sound environmental management. The programme will support the establishment of a national REDD+ strategy as an integral part of such planning processes in the Solomon Islands.

Lessons Learned: This initial national programme responds to lessons learned from previous UN support to the Solomon Islands, as well as to lessons learned from other UN-REDD country programmes.

The current UNDP CPAP is built on lessons learned from previous cycles of UN support to the Solomon Islands. Such lessons include the need to:

- *Build stronger partnerships at the highest levels, including enhanced donor partnerships for improved resource mobilization; and*
- *Ensure national commitment to, and ownership of programmes by enhancing involvement of key stakeholders ... (UNDP CPAP 2008-2012, page 4)*

Thus, the initial national programme is based on a thorough analysis of the programmes of other development partners, most notably AusAID, Japanese cooperation, the EU and GIZ, such that opportunities are identified for collaboration and cooperation, thus making progress towards REDD+ readiness more cost-effective. Also, the initial programme has a very strong emphasis on enhancing the involvement of stakeholders, through the establishment of inclusive REDD+ management processes, and an intensive education and awareness raising programme.

The strategy adopted for the initial programme also reflects lessons learned from UN-REDD support to several countries. For example, in the case of PNG, the misinformation concerning REDD+ which has already penetrated to many remote communities in PNG emphasized the importance of focusing early

and intensively on education and awareness raising. In the case of UN-REDD support to Cambodia, there was a need to build an effective REDD+ readiness management process that addressed the need for cooperation between two government agencies with little history of effective cooperation. A similar process is proposed for the Solomon Islands. Finally, experiences from country programmes in Viet Nam and Indonesia, for example, on preparation of a national REDD+ strategy, will enable the Solomon Islands to make progress more rapidly than would otherwise have been the case.

4. Proposed Joint Programme

Contribution to the preparation of a national REDD+ Strategy: Ultimately, the Solomon Islands needs to develop a comprehensive REDD+ Strategy that sets out how forest emission reductions will be achieved. This initial programme will establish the necessary processes to ensure that such a strategy is developed in an inclusive, participatory and transparent manner. It will also ensure that all information required in support of the preparation of a national REDD+ strategy will be mobilized. Finally, it will greatly enhance understanding of REDD+, including the potential benefits and risks to all stakeholder groups, thus facilitating the process of formulation of the national REDD+ strategy.

At the same time, the Government of the Solomon Islands is aware that there is no guarantee for future funding to support the full National Programme, even though key outputs and outcomes are achieved. Thus, the Government would explore opportunities to mobilize additional resources under certain global, regional and national initiatives and funding frameworks that may complement the activities that will be funded by the initial UN-REDD Programme. These initiatives include:

- Tier Two UN-REDD Programme initiative for the Pacific region, funded by UNDP-Japan Partnership Fund;
- GIZ/SPC “Regional BMU-ICI REDD+” Program;
- GIZ/SPC “Pacific-German Regional Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change” Program;
- ADB funded pilot intervention for Choiseul Province implemented by Live and Learn;
- FAO FLEGT funding
- Proposed UNDP/GEF capacity development (CB2) project supporting the REDD+ activities; and
- Any other opportunities with GEF, bilaterals, multilaterals and NGOs.

While the specific REDD+ actions to be undertaken in the Solomon Islands obviously need to be identified in the context of the formulation of a national REDD+ strategy, the likely nature of such actions can be determined with reference to the previously stated forest governance challenges (see section 2, pages 5-6). For example, it can be anticipated that strengthening of enforcement of existing forest laws will constitute a significant component of the national REDD+ strategy (challenges: uneven application of the rule of law; and incomplete enforcement). REDD+ will also require new legislative instruments which will be a vehicle for updating and completing forest-related legislation (challenge: outdated and incomplete legislation). The major contribution to reduced emissions will come from reduced levels of timber harvesting from the current highly unsustainable levels, and improved timber harvesting and post-harvest forest management. This will be achieved both through the improved legislation and improved enforcement described above, and through building capacity among the stakeholders, particularly customary ownership groups, to defend and apply their rights so as to ensure a greater share of benefits from timber harvesting, whilst also generating REDD+ revenues (challenges:

weak coordination and cooperation within and among customary ownership groups; and weak formal governance structures).

REDD Strategy Options (component 2b of R-PP): Clearly, the Solomon Islands needs to address numerous capacity gaps in becoming ready to implement REDD+. Given the realities of forest governance in the Solomon Islands, progress towards REDD+ readiness will necessarily be gradual and incremental. It is therefore appropriate to envisage rather modest REDD+ readiness during an initial programme, allowing more rapid progress subsequently under a full programme.

The UN-REDD programme in the Solomon Islands will support, in a collaborative manner with other development partners (see later text), the full range of actions required to address the six components of REDD+ readiness. The actions which the UN-REDD Programme can support starting in 2010 or early 2011 build on, and rely heavily on, lessons generated by UN-REDD actions in other programme countries. The actions to be supported under this initial UN-REDD programme are:

Establishment of a National REDD+ Working Group. The creation of a broad-based, multi-stakeholder REDD+ working group has proven to be very beneficial in both Viet Nam and Cambodia in helping to build confidence among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and creating a sense of “ownership” for the REDD+ readiness process. A decision on whether or not to include development partners in a National REDD+ Working Group for the Solomon Islands would need to be made by the government. On the governmental side, membership would include several line ministries that may not have perfectly harmonized policy positions related to REDD+. Therefore, consideration should be given to asking the Ministry of Development Planning & Aid Coordination to chair the Working Group. If development partners are included, there might be a development partner co-chair. The National REDD+ Working Group would assume an informal mandate to oversee all REDD+ readiness activities in the Solomon Islands.

Formulation of a REDD+ roadmap. One of the first activities of the National REDD+ Working Group would be to prepare a REDD+ readiness roadmap, which would identify the necessary actions required to achieve REDD+ readiness; on-going and planned actions related to the roadmap; on this basis, gaps which require filling; and responsibility for addressing elements of the roadmap. Such a process has been undertaken in Cambodia, and has proven very valuable not only in clarifying for all stakeholders the actions required to achieve REDD+ readiness, but also the roles of development partners in helping to fill gaps.

Background information gathering and studies. It is clear that much information required to support REDD+ readiness in the Solomon Islands is unavailable, or un-consolidated. For example, information of the location and status of timber licenses in many parts of the country is not readily available. Similarly, the REDD+ feasibility analysis undertaken several years ago requires revision and up-dating. The exact subject matter of background information gathering and studies will be decided by the National REDD+ Working Group.

A comprehensive REDD+ communication and education programme. In neighboring PNG, an enormous amount of mis-information has been disseminated throughout the country, even to remote communities. As a result of this mis-information and some well-publicized scandals related to the activities of “carbon cowboys”, prospects for rapid progress on REDD+ in PNG have been compromised. The situation is not yet as bad in the Solomon Islands, but equally, it is clear that mis-information about carbon trading in general, and REDD+ in particular, is beginning to be disseminated.

Consequently, it is a matter of utmost urgency to design and deliver a comprehensive programme of education and awareness raising so as to avoid the problems that have developed in PNG. The targets of this programme should include government officials, but the primary targets should be local communities in all parts of the programme. This activity should be initiated even ahead of the formulation of the National REDD+ Working Group.

In addition, as described earlier, by linking this activity with the work of the CROP under the Pacific Islands Forum, the national readiness process can greatly benefit from having access to the technical expertise of the CROP and the regional knowledge networks to exchange lessons with other countries such as PNG, Fiji and Vanuatu in the region that are also working towards REDD+ readiness.

Initial capacity building towards a regional (PNG/SI/Vanuatu) MRV system. Beginning with the development of a national MRV system for UN-REDD pilot country, Democratic Republic of Congo, the concept has now been broadened to a regional MRV approach for the six countries of the Congo Basin. The rationale for a regional approach is that all the countries share the same forest types, and similar or identical drivers of deforestation, and therefore have similar information needs. The benefits of a regional approach are that accuracy of carbon measurements can be improved through regional sharing of data, and total costs can be substantially reduced. These same arguments apply to the countries of the western Pacific, at least to PNG, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The UN-REDD Programme is proposing to begin the development of a MRV system for PNG. Consideration should be given to expanding this approach to develop a regional MRV system for PNG, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. Apart from the technical, capacity and cost justifications for a regional approach, the fact that most foresters in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are trained in PNG (at the University of PNG) means that there are inherently positive attitudes in favour of cooperation among the three countries.

Looking beyond 2010, it is appropriate to anticipate more ambitious REDD+ readiness activities. Having delivered a comprehensive communication and education programme, developed a REDD+ readiness roadmap, and undertaken key background studies, it may be appropriate to undertake a province-level, sub-national demonstration of REDD+. The logical choice for such a sub-national demonstration would seem to be Choiseul, for the following reasons:

- The province has demonstrated a strong, pro-conservation development approach, under the leadership of the Hon. Rev. Leslie Boseto
- The province has a single customary land owners' association, the LLCTC
- The province has not yet been subject to the heavy intensities of logging that have affected much of the rest of the country
- Other development partners, most notably TNC, have been engaged with local communities over many years (also Live & Learn is already implementing REDD+ demonstration activities)

Given these factors, the UN-REDD programme should assist the Government of the SI, in partnership with TNC and other development partners, to begin scoping a sub-national province-level REDD+ demonstration, with the aim to begin implementation in 2012 or 2013.

Human rights: The current UNDAF for the Pacific includes an Outcome dealing with the promotion of human rights, as part of the UN's global mandate. This initial programme will contribute to the UNDAF Outcome by establishing process to allow local communities to effectively enjoy the right of free, prior and informed consent for REDD+ actions in the Solomon Islands. This will effectively

strengthen a package of rights, including rights to lands, territories and resources, and rights to self-determination.

Land Ownership: land ownership is a key issue in Melanesian countries. Most of the lands in Melanesia including the Solomon Islands are customary owned. This means that tribes and clans owned the land, and in fact, 87% of the territory falls under such community ownership. Therefore extensive consultation with the tribal owners will be essential, and this will be done in accordance with the FCPF and UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness to respect key international conventions and declarations on rights, particularly, the principle of free, prior and informed consent. Various lessons from other and more advanced national programmes will be analyzed and shared to benefit this process in the Solomon Islands.

Gender issues: Gender inequality and violence against women are reportedly widespread throughout the Pacific, including in the Solomon Islands and women are more vulnerable during times of conflict and disaster. Levels of Pacific women's participation and representation in politics remain the lowest in the world. The regional average for the proportion of women in national legislative bodies in the Pacific states (excluding Australia and New Zealand) stands at a mere 2.5 percent, and this is a trend that has not changed in the past decade.

As in many other countries, women in rural communities have fewer livelihood options than men, and therefore poorer developed social security nets. Impacts of natural disasters, or decline in the quality of natural resources are therefore likely to impact women more markedly than men. Consequently, the initial programme will include a special focus on education and awareness raising for women in rural communities, and will seek to promote gender equality in REDD+ readiness management processes. The programme will contribute directly to one of the gender-specific UNDAF outputs, namely "2.2.1 *Strengthened local governance structures and systems support participatory decision making and models and innovative gender sensitive approaches to local governance are encouraged, supported, documented, disseminated and replicated*".

Relationship to other relevant initiatives: While there is currently no national REDD+ planning document (a "roadmap" will be one of the outputs of the initial programme), the initial programme has been designed to dovetail with and complement other relevant initiatives, as well as opening avenues for potential supplementary funding. For example, the recently-initiated UNDP project "*Strengthening Environmental Management and Reducing the Impact of Climate Change in Solomon Islands*", in supporting national environment policy development, information management, development of a scientific/technical knowledge base, and awareness raising, may contribute to activities such as convening of a National REDD+ Working Group, preparation of a REDD+ roadmap, commissioning of background studies, and development and delivery of a communication and education programme. UNDP is also preparing a submission to the GEF entitled "*Reducing the Impact of Climate Change and Strengthening Environment Management in the Solomon Islands*", intended to cover similar issues, and to supplement the outcomes of the UNDP core project.

In addition, the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre is implementing a regional REDD+ readiness support initiative in the Pacific with technical support from the UN-REDD Global Programme to assist the region in the preparation of a regional REDD+ roadmap, which will be harmonized with the national process in the Solomon Islands. This initiative will also work closely with GIZ/SPC programs on REDD+ and adaptation to ensure coordinated action and support in the region.

As mentioned previously, AusAID is preparing a Rural Livelihoods programme, which will include a communication and education component. REDD+ is a significant new opportunity for supplemental rural livelihoods, and therefore information on REDD+ needs to be an integral part of such a communication and education initiative. UNDP/UN-REDD can assist AusAID in ensuring that REDD+ is appropriately incorporated in the initiative.

There are no funding sources currently available to support a provincial sub-national demonstration. However, as it is not intended that such a demonstration should be initiated before about 2012, there is sufficient time for resource mobilization. One option is to investigate Japanese funding, either through JICA bilateral support (for grant assistance for grassroots human security projects which are implemented by the Embassy, proposals from NGOs or local agencies may be submitted at any time); or through the Human Security Trust Fund, which is managed by UN HQ. Obviously, a Human Security Trust Fund submission must have a focus on human security, but many governance aspects of REDD+, including clarification of land tenure and resource rights, strengthening local governance, and diversifying and supplementing rural incomes are key elements of human security.

Sustainability of results: As an initial programme, the results achieved are not necessarily intended to be sustainable in themselves – rather they are stepping stones towards a sustainable result (REDD+ readiness) that will require the support of other development partners and a full UN-REDD programme. However, the emphasis of the initial programme on the establishment of democratic and inclusive REDD+ readiness management processes, and the focus on education and awareness raising, will be major contributions to ensuring sustainability of the results eventually obtained – i.e., REDD+ readiness in the Solomon Islands.

5. Results Framework

The **Objective** of this initial UN-REDD programme is “*to establish the necessary institutional and individual capacities required to develop full REDD+ readiness in the Solomon Islands*”. This Objective will be secured through three **Outcomes** and associated **Outputs**. These are:

Outcome 1: REDD+ readiness supported by effective, inclusive and participatory management processes.

This Outcome will ensure broad-based support to the process of formulation, and to the eventual content of a national REDD+ strategy, and associated elements of REDD+ readiness. The initial programme will deliver this Outcome through the following three Outputs, of which only the first two will require UN-REDD funding, the third Output being co-financed by FAO, UNDP, and the GoSI:

Output 1.1: A broad-based, multi-stakeholder national REDD+ working group

Under the leadership, or joint leadership of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, and/or the Ministry of Forestry, the national REDD+ working group will meet regularly and oversee the process of REDD+ readiness. The working group will include broad and balanced representation of all stakeholder groups, including other government agencies, especially the Ministry of Agriculture (to ensure agricultural development plans are consistent with REDD+ strategy), customary land owner groups, NGOs, and the private sector.

Output 1.2: Collated and analyzed forest resource data

Currently, progress on REDD+ readiness is constrained by a lack of relevant data related to the forest sector in the Solomon Islands, and/or conflicting data. For example, the current status and boundaries of logging concessions are unclear, or at least the existing data is not widely available. While new data collection would be necessary on some issues, the collation and analysis of existing data from a wide range of sources can cast considerably more light on the current status of forest resources and forest management in the Solomon Islands.

Output 1.3 A REDD+ readiness roadmap

A roadmap establishes key results in improvement of forest governance for REDD+; documents current and planned activities contributing to those results; identifies gaps; assigns responsibilities to different partners; and establishes responsibility for monitoring and oversight of the process.

Outcome 2: REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+

The broad-based support to REDD+ readiness to be generated through Outcome 1 needs to be founded on a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the rights and obligations of REDD+ stakeholders, the potential benefits that might accrue through REDD+, and the risks associated with implementation of REDD+. As noted earlier, the Solomon Islands face a similar problem in the widespread

misrepresentation of REDD+ which has been seen in PNG, and negatively impacted progress towards REDD+ readiness there. The initial programme will deliver this Outcome through the following three Outputs:

Output 2.1: A constituency-based education and awareness raising programme.

Building on experience from similar process in other UN-REDD programme countries, and working closely with AusAID, the initial programme will design and deliver a programme of education and awareness raising to multiple stakeholder constituencies, including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Central government officials
- Local government officials
- Customary land owners and their representative associations
- Private sector entities

Particularly in the case of customary land owners, special attention will be given to the needs and rights of women.

Output 2.2: A process to ensure the right of free, prior and informed consent for actions to be undertaken on REDD+

The right to free, prior and informed consent is enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and reflected in UN-REDD Operational Guidance on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and other Forest-dependent Communities. It is important that free, prior and informed consent is viewed not as a one-off event, but as an on-going process through which the rights of customary land owners are respected and their wishes can be expressed. Consequently, it is important that a culturally and politically appropriate mechanism be designed ahead of the process of formulation of the national REDD+ strategy.

Output 2.3: A rapid/initial cost-abatement assessment.

Lessons from other UN-REDD country programmes have illustrated that it is very valuable to construct a cost abatement curve to help in identifying both the potential of REDD+ in terms of revenue generation, and to prioritize actions as a National REDD+ Strategy emerges. Such an initial analysis can rely on relatively simple and low-cost methodologies.

As part of the assessment process, appropriate tools² for assessing governance and implementing and monitoring social and environmental safeguards, prescribed in the Cancun LCA Outcome will be applied to support the country in identifying challenges, opportunities as well as costs of attaining conditions that are required for REDD+.

Outcome 3: Preliminary capacity developed for REL formulation and MRV

² The UN-REDD Global Programme is currently finalizing the Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) framework and the Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria together with an assessment tool.

In a country like the Solomon Islands, with poorly developed capacity for forest assessments of any kind, the necessary capacity for REL formulation and for MRV related to REDD+ will be a particular challenge. The initial programme will lay the groundwork for future capacity development. This will be achieved through two Outputs:

Output 3.1: REL and MRV capacity assessment

The initial programme will undertake a thorough assessment of current capacity, thus identifying the gaps that need to be addressed through a subsequent full programme and in collaboration with other development partners.

Output 3.2: Assessment of potential for regional cooperation on MRV

As noted previously, one potentially cost-effective approach to delivering the necessary capacity to a country like the Solomon Islands is regional cooperation. In particular, the opportunities and associated costs and capacity building needs for cooperation with PNG and Vanuatu will be assessed.

In the Results Framework Table below, the funding request from UN-REDD is shown, together with co-financing amounts from the ACP/FLEGT project (FAO), the *Strengthening Environmental Management and Reducing the Impact of Climate Change in Solomon Islands* project (UNDP), and government contributions to these projects (GoSI).

Results Framework Table

UNDAF Outcome 2: <i>“National and regional governance systems exercise the principles of inclusive good governance, respecting and upholding human rights; and resilient Pacific island communities participate in decision-making at all levels.”</i> UNDAF Outcome 4: <i>“The mainstreaming of environmental sustainability and sustainable energy into regional and national policies, planning frameworks and programmes; and Pacific communities sustainably using their environment, natural resources and cultural heritage.”</i>
UN-REDD National Programme Objective: <i>To establish the necessary institutional and individual capacities required to develop full REDD+ readiness in the Solomon Islands</i>

National Programme Components (Give corresponding indicators and baselines)	Participating UN organization-specific Outputs	Participating UN organization ³	Implementing Partner	Indicative activities for each Component	Funding Source	Resource allocation and indicative time frame		
						Y1	Y2	Total
Outcome 1: REDD+ readiness supported by effective, inclusive and participatory management processes.	<u>Output 1.1:</u> A broad-based, multi-stakeholder national REDD+ working group	UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	• Formulation of working group • Regular meetings • Workshops	MDTF	24,000	27,000	51,000
						5,000	5,000	10,000
						5,000	5,000	10,000
						3,000	3,000	6,000
	<u>Output 1.2:</u> Collated and analyzed forest resource data	FAO	GoSI/MoFor	• Report on data availability • Collation and analysis of data • Review workshop	MDTF	47,000	0	47,000
						30,000	20,000	50,000
						0	0	0
						10,000	10,000	20,000

³ In cases of national programmes using pooled fund management modality, the Managing Agent is responsible/accountable for achieving all shared programme outputs. However, those participating UN organizations that have specific direct interest in a given programme output, and may be associated with the Managing Agent during the implementation, for example in reviews and agreed technical inputs, will also be indicated in this column.

	<u>Output 1.3</u> A REDD+ readiness roadmap	UNDP and FAO	GoSI/MoFor	• Stakeholder consultations • Analysis of current and planned activities • Identification of gaps • Consultations on approaches • Development of a monitoring and oversight process	MDTF	0	0	0
					FAO	10,000	10,000	20,000
					UNDP	10,000	10,000	20,000
					GoSI	12,000	12,000	24,000
Outcome 2: REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+	<u>Output 2.1:</u> A constituency-based education and awareness raising programme	UNDP and FAO	GoSI/MECDM	• Needs assessment • Preparation of materials • Training of trainers • Delivery of programme	MDTF	48,000	39,000	87,000
					FAO	15,000	15,000	30,000
					UNDP	20,000	20,000	40,000
					GoSI	5,000	5,000	10,000
	<u>Output 2.2:</u> A process to ensure the right of free, prior and informed consent for actions to be undertaken on REDD+	UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	• Participatory design of process • Preparation of materials • Training of trainers • Piloting and evaluation	MDTF	41,000	44,000	85,000
					FAO	0	0	0
					UNDP	20,000	20,000	40,000
					GoSI	10,000	10,000	20,000

	Output 2.3: A rapid/initial cost abatement analysis	UNDP	GoSI	• Review of potential methodologies and selection of appropriate methodology • Data collection and analysis by contracted agency • Preparation of cost abatement curve and report • Stakeholder discussions and adoption of report	MDTF	0	72,000	72,000
					FAO	0	0	0
					UNDP	0	0	0
					GoSI	0	0	0
Outcome 3: Preliminary capacity developed for REL formulation and MRV	<u>Output 3.1:</u> REL and MRV capacity assessment	FAO	GoSI/MoFor	• Needs assessment • Analysis of preliminary data • Consultative workshop	MDTF	0	77,000	77,000
					FAO	10,000	5,000	15,000
					UNDP	0	0	0
					GoSI	0	0	0
	<u>Output 3.2:</u> Assessment of potential for regional cooperation on MRV	FAO	GoSI/MoFor	• National/regional meetings • Workshops	MDTF		48,000	48,000
					FAO	5,000	5,000	10,000
					UNDP	0	0	0
					GoSI	0	0	0
Programme Management		UNDP	GoSI		MDTF	15,673	31,346	47,019
Overall Totals					MDTF	175,673	338,346	514,019
					FAO	75,000	60,000	135,000
					UNDP	55,000	55,000	110,000
					GoSI	40,000	40,000	80,000
					Grand Total	345,673	493,346	839,019

Agency Allocations (pooled management)		Y1	Y2	Total
UNDP	Programme Cost	175,673	338,346	514,019
	Indirect Support Cost	12,297	23,684	35,981
Overall Total	Programme Cost	175,673	338,346	514,019
	Indirect Support Cost	12,297	23,684	35,981

6. Management and Coordination Arrangements

Overview of the overall UN-REDD Programme structure

Policy Board

The UN-REDD Policy Board provides overall leadership and sets the strategic direction of the UN-REDD Programme. It decides on Programme financial allocations, in line with the budget parameters set out in the UN-REDD Framework Document, and develops monitoring mechanisms, with a view to ensuring Fund-wide success. The UN-REDD Policy Body will ensure coordination with REDD actors at a global scale, such as the World Bank's FCPF participants' committee. The Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the UN-REDD Policy Board will be made available on the UN-REDD Programme website www.un-redd.org. See also the UN-REDD Workspace for eligible users www.unredd.net

Secretariat

The UN-REDD Secretariat serves the Policy Board, using the capacities of the participating UN organizations, research institutions and recognized experts. It ensures policies and strategies decided by the Policy Board are implemented and adhered to. The Secretariat will manage the national joint programme review process. It will also manage the UN-REDD's overall monitoring and evaluation function which includes *inter alia* monitoring allocations to and delivery by the country joint programmes, and tracking Programme-wide progress and ensuring that monitoring mechanisms are applied.

The Secretariat's main roles can be summarized as follows:

- Policy Board support
- Partner and external relations
- Quality assurance and oversight of national joint programmes
- Quality assurance and oversight of the International Support Functions described in the Global Joint Programme (hereafter referred to as the "Global Joint Programme")
- Monitoring and knowledge management

Participating UN Organizations' Coordination Group

The Participating UN Organizations' Coordination Group consists of representatives of the three UN agencies: FAO, UNDP, and UNEP. The Coordination Group will have the main function in ensuring active, participatory and well-coordinated engagement by the agencies to implement the goals and objectives of the overall UN-REDD Programme, as well as to provide oversight of the Secretariat consistent with the strategic directions and decisions provided by the Policy Board.

Administrative Agent

The UNDP Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) Office is the Administrative Agent of the UN-REDD Programme Fund. The MDTF Office manages the distribution of resources and serves as the administrative interface with donors. UNDP's accountability as the Administrative Agent is set out in the policy "UNDP's Accountability when acting as Administrative Agent in MDTFs and/or UN Joint Programmes using the pass-through fund management modality".

The MDTF Office as AA will be responsible for:

- Receipt, administration and management of contributions from donors;

- Disbursement of funds to the Participating UN Organization, in accordance with the instructions of the UN-REDD Policy Board;
- Provide support to FAO, UNDP and UNEP in their reporting functions;
- Compilation of consolidated narrative and financial reports to the Policy Board through the Technical Secretariat, national steering committees and to donors.

The Administrative Agent may undertake additional functions at the request of the Participating UN Organizations.

Overview of expected management arrangements at the national level

UN Resident Coordinator⁴

The Initial NP will be supported by UN Resident Coordinator in her/his strategic leadership of the UN Country Team and relationships with national authorities. The UN Resident Coordinator will provide ongoing oversight to the NP, ensuring the participating UN organizations are meeting their obligations. The Resident Coordinator is entrusted with supporting the overall programme design under the government's leadership, ongoing programmatic oversight of the NP activities and UN coordination with the National REDD+ Office where such exist. The Resident Coordinator also facilitates ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the NP activities in conformity with UN standards any guidance provided by the UN-REDD Secretariat or Policy Board. On receipt of consolidated country level reports, the Resident Coordinator will provide an overall assessment of the NP's progress and results. Resident Coordinators are encouraged to keep Country Team members fully-informed on UN-REDD activities. The UN-REDD Programme also looks to Resident Coordinators to reach out to NGOs, CSOs, national governments and non-resident UN agencies, where appropriate.

Programme Management Committee (PMC)

A Programme Management mechanism will be established to provide operational coordination to the NP and integration under the UNDAF thematic structures in place at the country level. The establishment of a country-led National REDD+ Office will be encouraged to provide day-to-day management of the NP, coordinate national REDD+ activities, ensure whole-of-government responses, and integrate REDD+ into national development planning processes.

Programme Management Unit (PMU)

A programme management unit (PMU) will be responsible for day-to-day management of the programme, including the preparation of annual and three-monthly workplans, and financial and programmatic reports. The PMU will be based in Honiara and will consist of following key staff:

- National Programme Coordinator (NDP): Senior government official; salary not paid by the project
- National Senior Programme Technical Advisor
- Programme Manager
- Secretary/Accountant

⁴ UNDP Country Office in the Solomon Islands is represented by the UNDP Resident Representative/UN Resident Coordinator of the UNDP Multi-Country Office based in Suva, Fiji.

a) National Programme Director (NPD)

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology will assign a senior official as part time National Programme Director. The NPD shall be responsible to the GoSI and UN Resident Coordinator on uses of the joint programme resources and reporting on the programme implementation progress as well as achievements. Specifically, the NPD shall be responsible for comprehensive management and implementation of the UN-REDD programme through supervision of the PMU. The NPD shall make decisions related to implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national programme. The NPD will also act as Secretary of the PMC.

b) National Senior Programme Technical Advisor

A nationally-recruited Programme Technical Advisor will be recruited for the duration of the Initial UN-REDD country programme. The technical advisor will provide on-going technical advice to the National Programme Director so as to ensure effective and timely delivery of programme results. The programme technical advisor will also assist in the identification of required technical inputs and mobilization of appropriate technical specialists to deliver those inputs. The programme technical advisor will also assist in monitoring of programme delivery and advise on modifications to the programme strategy and work programme in order to rectify any short-comings in programme delivery.

c) Programme Manager (PM)

Project Manager will be delegated by the NPD to ensure smooth implementation on daily basis. PM will be accountable for operational activities of the project. Therefore this is a full time position with strong management experience and excellent English skills. He/she will be responsible for progress reports, annual and quarterly workplan preparation, and preparing budgets for approval.

d) Secretary/Accountant

The Secretary/Accountant will provide assistance in the operational management of the project; undertake preparation of project events, including workshops, meetings (monthly, quarterly and annual), study tours, trainings, etc.; assist with project communication activities, including publications; be responsible for financial planning, accounting and reporting, control of expenditures, bank reconciliation, maintaining an inventory register, and general administration.

Cash Transfer Arrangements and work planning and budgeting

Cash transfers will be according to the UN Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers. The specific modality of cash transfers will be determined on the basis of a joint micro-assessment to be conducted by ExComm agencies. Until the HACT micro-assessment is completed, cash transfer arrangements will be direct payment.

The PMU will be responsible for preparing a quarterly workplan (QWP) using a unified workplan format and covering activities and inputs under all participating UN Agencies, and (after the first quarter of implementation) a unified report on activities and expenditures during the previous quarter, disaggregated by participating UN Agency. The QWP will be accompanied by a quarterly budget table, disaggregated by responsible Participating UN Agency, as specified in Table 1, above, and for identifying specific procurement and recruitment activities to be undertaken by the Participating UN Agencies. The QWP and budget will be reviewed and agreed among the participating UN Agencies and the NPD.

7. Fund Management Arrangements

The initial programme shall be nationally implemented and build on previous UN experience implementing joint programmes. As per the Accra Agenda for Action, partner country systems will be used as the first option, rather than UN Agency systems.

All funds should be managed as consistently as possible. To this end, the UNDG's Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT)⁵ will apply to all funds transferred to national implementing partners. On the basis of a HACT micro-assessment of The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECM), completed on 31st March 2008, HACT micro assessment has indicated "high risk" rating in their overall assessment. This requires both UN agency and Ministry working together to address capacity and other issues in terms of joint risk management for the programme implementation. Thus the fund transfer modality for the UN-REDD Initial National Programme will be The Direct Implementation (DIM)

The initial programme shall include a National Programme Director with sufficient responsibility to manage the implementation of the programme across UN Agency allocations and funding streams. The National Programme Director will work closely with the national implementing partners and the UN Resident Coordinator.

UNDP will be the Managing Agent (MA) and act as the financial interface, on behalf of FAO and UNEP, with the national partner.

The Programme Executive Board (PEB) shall include all the signatories to the joint programme document. UNDP will prepare and share narrative and financial reports in accordance with its policies and procedures and operational policy guidance for submission to the Joint Programme Coordination Mechanism.

The UNDG has generally adopted UNDP's Enterprise Risk Management approach. This approach will be applied to the UN-REDD initial programme.

Quality Assurance and Specialized Service Delivery Costs

Participating UN Organizations shall be entitled to deduct their indirect costs on contributions received according to their own regulations and rules, taking into account the size and complexity of the particular programme. Any indirect costs will be reflected in the Joint Programme submitted to the UN-REDD Secretariat. Indirect costs will not exceed 7 per cent of the joint programme budget. These costs cover general oversight, management, and quality control, in accordance with its financial regulations and rules. Specialized service delivery costs for programme and project implementation may be charged directly to the joint programme, in accordance with the respective Participating UN Organizations' policies."

⁵ See www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=255

8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Table 2: Joint Programme Monitoring Framework (JPMF)

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Indicators (with baselines & indicative timeframe)	Means of verification	Collection methods (with indicative time frame & frequency)	Responsibilities	Risks & assumptions	Risk Mitigation Strategies
Outcome 1: REDD+ readiness supported by effective, inclusive and participatory management processes.	REDD+ readiness roadmap; baseline: no roadmap process; target: roadmap ready after 10 months	Minutes of review meetings and roadmap document	Programme management to collate and supply	UNDP to organize and support process	Political stability allows process to proceed; Government commitment to multi-stakeholder process	Political instability would have very minimal implications to the programme as core technical function would still remain Proactive engagement and effective monitoring measures to be adapted by government counterparts and PMU
Output 1.1: A broad-based, multi-stakeholder national REDD+ working group	Working group formed within 2 months and meet monthly	Working group minutes	Programme management to collate and supply	UNDP to organize and support process	Difference stakeholder views managed so as not to disrupt functions of working group	Effective consultations with all stakeholders and collective decision making
Output 1.2: Collated and analyzed forest resource data	Report produced within 10 months	Report	Programme management to supply	UNDP to organize and support process	All sources of data are shared	Key stakeholders' participatory involvement at the initial phase of the

						programme
Output 1.3 A REDD+ readiness roadmap	Monitoring and oversight process in place within 4 months	Stakeholder Report	Programme management to supply	UNDP and FAO to organize and support process	Government commitment to multi-stakeholder process	Proactive engagement and effective monitoring measures to be adapted by government counterparts and PMU
Outcome 2: REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+	Empowered stakeholders by end of initial programme	Independent assessment and evaluation	Independent contractor to conduct	UNDP to organize and support	Support from local government and customary land owners	Effective awareness and consultation at the communities with customary land owners and at the provincial level
<u>Output 2.1:</u> A constituency-based education and awareness raising programme.	Plan developed within 4 months; programme delivered by end of initial programme	Plan approved Independent assessment of awareness	Programme management to supply Independent contractor to conduct	UNDP and FAO to organize and support process	Support from local government and customary land owners	Effective awareness and consultation at the communities with customary land owners and at the provincial level
<u>Output 2.2:</u> A process to ensure the right of free, prior and informed consent for actions to be undertaken on REDD+	Plan developed within 4 months; programme delivered by end of initial programme	Plan approved Independent assessment of FPIC process	Programme management to supply Independent contractor to conduct	UNDP to organize and support process	Support from local government and customary land owners	Effective awareness and consultation at the communities with customary land owners and at the provincial level
Output 2.3: A rapid/initial cost abatement analysis	initial cost abatement analysis Report	Report	Programme management to supply	UNDP to organize and support process	Support from local government and	Effective awareness and consultation

					customary land owners	at the communities with customary land owners and at the provincial level
Outcome 3: Preliminary capacity developed for REL formulation and MRV	Costed plan for REL/MRV capacity building with timeline	Report	Programme management to supply	FAO to organize and support process	All sources of data are shared	Key stakeholders' participatory involvement at the initial phase of the programme
Output 3.1: REL and MRV capacity assessment	Needs assessment report	Report	Programme management to supply	FAO to organize and support process	All sources of data are shared	Key stakeholders' participatory involvement at the initial phase of the programme
Output 3.2: Assessment of potential for regional cooperation on MRV	Regional cooperation opportunities report	Report	Programme management to supply	FAO to organize and support process	Other countries willing to discuss and contribute	Involvement of Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) for technical support

Annual/Regular Reviews: Audit requirements are determined by the HACT assessment process and, if necessary, constitute part of the HACT assurance activities.

The Government - particularly the lead National Implementing Partner and National Coordinating Authority - and the Participating UN Organizations shall jointly conduct scheduled/annual planning and review meetings through the PEB.

Risk Management: The UNDG has generally adopted UNDP's Enterprise Risk Management approach. This approach will be applied to the UN-REDD NPs. Reference should be made to the document "Tips and Guidelines on Conducting the Five Steps of the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Cycle".

A Risk Log will be prepared before the NP document is signed. It will set out how the identified risks and assumptions will be managed to achieve the expected programme results. The Risk Log will be regularly reviewed by the PEB and the UN-REDD Secretariat

Evaluation: The Secretariat will establish an Evaluation Plan which ensures that all national programmes will undertake a final evaluation, which will assess the relevance and effectiveness of the intervention, and measure the development impact of the results achieved, on the basis of the initial

analysis and indicators described at the time of programme formulation. Furthermore, the Secretariat from time to time shall lead reviews of NPs as necessary.

Reporting: The Participating UN Organizations are required to provide narrative reports on results achieved, lessons learned and the contributions made to the NP. The information shall be consolidated by the Programme Manager into a narrative report every 6 months and submitted to the Programme Management Committee. The reports will then be forwarded by the UN resident Coordinator to the UN-REDD Secretariat. The UN-REDD Secretariat shall provide the Policy Board updates on the implementation progress of the NJP every 6 months, based on information received from the UN Resident Coordinator. The UN Resident Coordinator will assist in ensuring the Participating UN Organizations at the country level provide the necessary information. The UN-REDD Coordination Group shall also follow-up with the relevant officers and representatives of the Participating UN Organizations.

Participating UN Organizations in receipt of UN-REDD resources will be required to provide the AA with the following statements and reports:

- Narrative progress reports for each twelve-month period ending 31 December, to be provided no later than three months after the end of the applicable reporting period;
- Annual financial reports as of 31 December each year with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Joint Programme Account, to be provided no later than four months after the end of the applicable reporting period;
- A final narrative report and financial report, after the completion of all National Programme activities financed from the UN-REDD MDTF, to be provided no later than 30 April of the year following the financial closing of Programme activities;
- A final certified financial statement, to be provided no later than 30 June of the year following the financial closing of Project activities.

At the UN-REDD Programme Fund level, the AA shall prepare consolidated narrative progress and financial reports consisting of the reports referred to above submitted by each Participating UN Organization, and shall provide those consolidated reports to the respective Resident Coordinators and subsequently to the UN-REDD Policy Board through the Secretariat, and to the UN-REDD Programme Board donors in accordance with the MOU and SAA.

Agreed standard UNDG financial and progress reporting formats will be utilised. The Administrative Agent will also submit to donors a certified annual financial statement (Source and Use of Funds).

Information given to the press, to the beneficiaries of the UN-REDD Programme, all related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, shall acknowledge the role of the UN-REDD donors, the UN Agencies, and any other relevant parties.

Whenever possible and to the extent that it does not jeopardize the privileges and immunities of UN Agencies, and the safety and security of their staff, UN Agencies will promote donor visibility on information, project materials and at project sites, in accordance with their respective regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

9. Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

The Participating UN Organizations (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to implement the UN-REDD Collaborative Programme, which came into effect on 20th June 2008 and ends 20th June 2012.

This Joint Programme document is consistent with the cooperation/assistance agreements signed by the lead UN agencies involved in this programme with the Government of the Solomon Islands. For the UNDP, this Document is pursuant to the Country Programme Action Plan and the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) it signed with the Government of the Solomon Islands. All provisions in the SBAA therefore apply to this document. Consistent with Article III of the SBAA, the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner.

The implementing partner shall:

- put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried; and
- assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

The **UNDP** reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

On the part of the **FAO**, this document is consistent with the basic agreement with Government of the Solomon Islands. The FAO Sub-regional Representative (SRR) in Samoa shall represent the Organization in the Solomon Islands, and shall be responsible within the limits of the authority delegated to him/her, for all aspects of the Organization's activities in the country. In the effective performance of his/her functions, the FAO representative shall have access to appropriate policy and planning levels of Government in the agriculture, fishery and forestry sectors of the economy, as well as, to central planning authorities. He/she shall maintain close liaison with the Government's coordinating agency for external assistance and thereby serve to keep all the appropriate Government agencies fully informed on all aspects of the policies and procedures of FAO's programme in the Solomon Islands. FAO will provide technical support to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities where FAO is responsible and is required to provide support.

For **UNEP**, in line with its position as a non-resident agency with a global mandate for technical cooperation and capacity building, the signed Joint Programme document shall be the legal basis of UNEP's relation with the Government of the Solomon Islands within the context of this programme. UNEP will work in close coordination with the programme management team.

The Participating UN Organizations agree to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the funds received pursuant to UN-REDD are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by Participating UN Organizations do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999).

The list can be accessed via <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this programme document.

10. Work Plans and Budgets

The work plan and budget of this National Programme have been developed jointly by the three Participating UN Organizations and the Government of the Solomon Islands. The work plan details the expected outcomes, outputs and activities to be carried out within the programme, the implementing partners, timeframes and planned inputs from the Participating UN Organizations. An annual work plan and budget will be produced each year for each Participating UN Organization, subsequent to the decisions of the annual/regular reviews. Each work plan will be approved by the UN-REDD Secretariat and signed by the implementing partners.

Work Plan for initial UN-REDD programme for the Solomon Islands

Period Jan-Dec 2011 /2012

NP Objective: To establish the necessary institutional and individual capacities required to develop full REDD+ readiness in the Solomon Islands																
Output	Activities	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Agency (Managing Agent)	Implementing Partner	Source of Funds	Budget Description	2011 Amount (US\$)	2012 Amount (US\$)	
NP Outcome 1: REDD+ readiness supported by effective, inclusive and participatory management processes																
Output 1.1 A broad-based, multi-stakeholder national REDD+ working group	Formulation of working group									UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	2,000	-	
													Other direct costs	500	-	
	Regular meetings									UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	6,000	11,500	
													Other direct costs	3,000	6,500	
	Workshops									UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	6,000	6,000	
													Training of Counterparts	3,500	-	
													Other direct costs	3,000	3,000	
	Subtotal													24,000	27,000	
	Output 1.2 Collated and analyzed forest resource data	Report on data availability									UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Personnel	6,000	-
														Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	500	-
										Contracts				10,000	-	
										Other direct costs				500	-	
Collation and analysis of data										UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Personnel	6,000	-	
													Training of Counterparts	3,500	-	
													Contracts	15,000	-	
													Other direct costs	500	-	
Review workshop										UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Personnel	3,500	-	
													Supplies, commodities, equipment and	500	-	

																		transport		
																		Other direct costs	1,000	-
	Subtotal																		47,000	-
Output 1.3 A REDD+ readiness roadmap	Stakeholder consultations									UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	-	-					
	Analysis of current and planned activities									UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Personnel	-	-					
	Identification of gaps									UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	-	-					
	Consultations of approaches									UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Personnel	-	-					
	Development of a monitoring and oversight process									UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Contracts	-	-					
	Subtotal													-	-					
NP Outcome 2: REDD+ stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+																				
Output 2.1 A constituency-based education and awareness raising programme	Needs assessment									UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	19,000	-					
													Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	3,000	-					
													Other direct costs	1,000	-					
	Preparation of materials									UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	4,000	-					
													Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	5,000	-					
													Contracts	15,000	2,500					
													Other direct costs	1,000	-					
	Training of trainers									UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	-	2,000					
													Contracts	-	15,000					
													Other direct costs	-	5,000					

	Delivery of programme										UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	-	-
														Contracts	-	10,000
														Other direct costs	-	4,500
	subtotal														48,000	39,000
<u>Output 2.2</u> A process to ensure the right of free, prior and informed consent for actions to be undertaken on REDD+	Participatory design of process										UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	9,000	-
														Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	-	-
														Contracts	-	-
														Other direct costs	2,000	-
	Preparation of materials										UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	4,000	-
														Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	3,000	-
														Contracts	10,000	-
														Other direct costs	1,000	-
	Training of trainers										UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	4,000	3,000
														Contracts	5,000	5,000
														Other direct costs	3,000	4,000
	Piloting and evaluation										UNDP	GoSI/MECDM	MDTF	Personnel	-	10,000
														Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	-	2,000
														Contracts	-	15,000
														Other direct costs	-	5,000
	Subtotal														41,000	44,000
<u>Output 2.3</u> A rapid/initial cost abatement	Review of potential methodologies										UNDP	GoSI	MDTF	Personnel	-	5,000
														Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	-	2,000

[illegible]

	workshop												Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	-	
													Other direct costs	-	4,000
	Subtotal													-	77,000
Output 3.2 Assessment of potential for regional cooperation on MRV	National/regional meetings									UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Personnel	-	19,000
													Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	-	-
													Other direct costs	-	2,500
	Workshops									UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	Personnel	-	19,000
													Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	-	
													Contracts	-	7,500
	Subtotal													-	48,000
Programme Management										UNDP	GoSI/MoFor	MDTF	personnel	15,673	31,346
	Subtotal													15,673	31,346
													TOTAL	175,673	338,346
													Indirect Support Cost 7%	12,297	23,684
													GRAND TOTAL	550,000	